



*Office of Public Affairs
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BREAKDOWN OF DOHA ROUND

US Ambassador Bill McCormick has expressed his concern at the breakdown of the Doha round.

"The United States shares New Zealand's profound disappointment that the G - 6 Ministers were unable to reach an agreement last night," said US Ambassador Bill McCormick.

He says that the US went to Geneva with the flexibility to offer more on domestic support and market access.

"It is heart-breaking that even though we were willing to go beyond what we've previously offered -- even further than the 60 percent reduction in trade-distorting domestic support we've already offered -- some other G-6 parties were unwilling to offer real increases in agricultural market access through lower tariffs and other barriers."

Any possible future Doha agreement could not be submitted to the U.S. Congress under existing trade negotiating authority, which expires in July 2007, but the Ambassador stressed that the US would not shrink from its commitment to free trade.

The Ambassador noted that at the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles President Bush said, "It's very important for the world to hear very clearly the position of the United States and that is we want to work with the EU to rid our respective countries of agricultural subsidies."

"We are not giving up now, nor are we going to settle for a mere shadow of Doha's promise. Developed nations share a responsibility to help lift developing economies out of dependency." Ambassador McCormick added.

U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns are preparing to travel extensively in the weeks ahead to meet with their international counterparts about how to move forward.

"Developing nations need us to foster prosperity not dependency. Unless we figure out how to move forward from here we will have missed a unique opportunity to help developing countries and spur economic growth for all nations," the Ambassador said.